

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The program of studies in schools of law in Czechoslovakia has been simplified. Roman, ecclesiastical and international legal systems are no longer included in the curriculum. Major courses are now Marxism-Leninism, new Czechoslovakian law, Russian language and military science. There is reported to be a shortage of law students; district prosecutors have been told to recruit prospective student candidates.
2. Other academic faculties, however, are overcrowded. The only exception is the recently established course in food distribution. A recent development is the subdivision of the faculty of philosophy into philosophic-historical and philological branches.
3. Many of the former Gymnasiums, such as Duchcov, are being closed, or the number of classes restricted. Some have been converted into so-called pedagogical Gymnasiums; the schools at Teplice, Stribro and Ceske Budejovice have been thus transformed. The pedagogical Gymnasiums have replaced pedagogical faculties as schools for teacher-candidates.
4. "Maturity examinations" are given secondary school students by a five-member board. The members are not scholars but are reliable Communists. They are concerned not with academic achievement as much as with the political reliability of the student. The Zastupce lidu (people's representative) has the deciding vote in the body; other members are instructed to delay their choice until the representative's decision is made known. In 1951, some unreliable students were not allowed to take the examination. In 1952, all students were admitted but were carefully screened during the test.
5. Engineering schools are widely publicized; each is specialized in a single subject. Each school is assigned to a major engineering project on which students obtain practical experience. For example, the school of power in Chomutov is assigned to the power plant of Arvenice and Komcrany; the mechanical engineering institute in Chomutov has ties with the Kliment works (formerly the Mannesmann plant) in Chomutov. Other known engineering schools are: mechanical engineering: Most, Plzen, Kladno, Pisek, Liberec; power: Decin, Kutna Hora, Plzen; construction: Plzen, Decin.

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6. In July 1952, the Liberec engineering school's superintendent and four professors were dismissed; many students were refused permission to proceed. Ucitelske Noviny, the teachers' journal, printed a lengthy article on the reactionary spirit in which the school was run.
7. Workers may enter a ten month preparatory course for admittance to universities. The number of such courses is increasing. No preliminary education is required; all students graduate with maturity examination diplomas. The majority then go to a university; universities give priority to graduates of the courses.
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